

February 4, 1963

SOVIET MISSILES STILL IN CUBA

Mr. BRUCE. I thank the Speaker, and I thank the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. Curtis].

I have learned on the highest authority from what I consider unimpeachable sources that highly placed officials in Cuba from several major Western Powers friendly to the United States counted the unloading from Soviet vessels in Cuba of 82 to 88 Soviet missiles—not 42.

That would mean there are 40 or more Soviet missiles still in Cuba today and according to my sources the highest officials in the U.S. Government know it.

I can also report that these officials have given full details on this to the U.S. State Department.

The administration has told the American people that 43 missiles were sent to Castro by Khrushchev, and that our aerial and naval observations convinced them that all 42 missiles were removed by Soviet ships. Assuming that 42 actually were taken out of Cuba, by the diplomats' count 40 to 46 missiles capable of striking the heart of the United States still remain on Castro's island.

How long will the State Department continue hiding the facts from the American people? Are we going to be told again that they have suddenly just discovered that these weapons are now in Cuba?

The time to tell the American people the truth is now.

I challenge the State Department to deny that they have been given this information. And let us not have any more silly doublespeak about soft versus hard intelligence. I would rather suspect that the problem is not one of soft or hard intelligence, but rather one of soft or hard heads.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STATEMENT ON FEBRUARY 4, 1963:

The statement attributed to Representative Bruce by the wire services today, to the effect that the United States has been informed by friendly governments that the total number of Soviet missiles shipped to Cuba was 82 to 88, is incorrect. No friendly government has so informed the United States.

There remains no credible evidence that there are offensive Soviet weapons in Cuba. If Mr. Bruce has credible evidence to support his statement, the Department of Defense would like to receive it.